

Appl. No. 10/816,384

Preliminary Amendment in RCE Responding to Office Action of December 5, 2005

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of using a coating composition for substantially preventing moisture loss from a cured composite coated with the composition, the method ~~coating composition prepared by a process comprising:~~
applying to a surface of a cured composite, the composite comprising residual moisture from a cure reaction, a composition prepared by heating and blending a mixture comprising waxes and paraffins and dispersing a powdered metal, metal oxide, or metal carbide dispersed throughout the mixture; and cooling the mixture to form a waxy solid substantially free of entrained gasses with powdered metal, metal oxide or carbide dispersed therein; and
forming a coating of the composition of the composite surface wherein the waxy solid is substantially free of entrained gasses, wherein without need for heating the composition is not needed to render to form a homogeneous a the coating of the composition as applied to a on the composite, wherein whereby the coating reduces moisture loss from the composite coated therewith, and wherein the composite comprises residual moisture produced by a cure reaction.
2. (Currently Amended) The method ~~coating composition~~ of claim 1, wherein the mixture comprises a mixture of beeswax and paraffins.
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~coating composition~~ method of claim 2, wherein the paraffins comprise primarily aliphatic hydrocarbons having chain lengths in the range from about 18 to about 36 carbon atoms.
4. (Currently Amended) The method ~~coating composition~~ of claim 1, wherein the metal comprises aluminum.
5. (Currently Amended) The method ~~coating composition~~ of claim 1, wherein the metal oxide comprises titanium oxide or aluminum oxide.

Appl. No. 10/816,384

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6. (Currently Amended) The method ~~coating composition~~ of claim 2, wherein the metal comprises aluminum.
7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~coating composition~~ of claim 2, wherein the metal oxide comprises titanium oxide or aluminum oxide.
8. (Currently Amended) The method ~~coating composition~~ of claim 1, wherein the mixture, before addition of powdered metal or metal oxide, has a melting point in the range of about 120° to 250°F.
9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~coating composition~~ of claim 1, wherein, the composition cools to ambient temperature substantially free of occlusion of gas bubbles.
10. (Currently Amended) The method ~~coating composition~~ of claim 1, wherein the composition is a solid at temperatures in the range below about 120°F, and liquefies upon heating to a temperature in the range from about 140° to about 180°F.
11. (Currently Amended) The method ~~coating composition~~ of claim 1, wherein the powdered metal or metal oxide or metal carbide comprises a sufficient amount to permit uniform heating of a mass of the composition, and to provide such internal compression of a mass of the composition upon cooling as to substantially exclude occluded gasses from a cooled mass.
12. (Currently Amended) The method ~~coating composition~~ of claim 1, wherein the amount of powdered metal or metal oxide or metal carbide comprises from about 5 to about 15 wt. %, based on the weight of the mixture of paraffin and beeswax.

Appl. No. 10/816,384

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13. (Currently Amended) The method coating composition of claim 1, wherein the forming of the coating produces a coating that ~~when coated onto a composite material subject to residual moisture loss, the composition~~ reduces moisture loss by from about 60 to about 100% as compared to an uncoated composite.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of using a coating composition ~~for substantially preventing to substantially prevent~~ development of cracks in a cured composite otherwise prone to moisture loss under environmental conditions to which it is exposed, the ~~composition~~ method comprising:

applying to a surface of the composite a composition that is a waxy solid at room temperature, the composition comprising:

- a) a mixture of esters of fatty acids and aliphatic hydrocarbons having a softening point in the range from about 120° to about 180°F; and
- b) a powdered additive in sufficient amount to permit uniform heating of a mass of the composition, the additive providing such compression during cooling in preparation of the composition as ~~and to provide compression of a mass of the composition upon cooling~~ sufficient to substantially exclude occluded gasses from a cooled mass of the composition; and

forming a homogeneous coating on the composite surface wherein the composition ~~comprises a waxy solid at room temperature, wherein without need for heating the composition is not needed to render homogeneous a coating of the composition as applied to a composite, and the coating substantially preventing loss from wherein the composite of to be coated~~ comprises residual moisture resulting from cure of a polymer of the composite.

15. (Currently Amended) The method coating composition of claim 14, wherein the mixture comprises paraffins and waxes, the paraffins primarily having a chain length of from about 18 to about 36 carbon atoms.

Appl. No. 10/816,384

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16. (Currently Amended) The method coating composition of claim 14, wherein the powdered additive is selected from the group consisting of powdered metals, metal carbides and metal oxides.
17. (Currently Amended) The method coating composition of claim 15, wherein the powdered additive comprises powdered aluminum comprising particulates in the range from about 25 to about 60 microns.
18. (Currently Amended) The method coating composition of claim 16, wherein the powdered additive is selected from aluminum and titanium oxide.
19. (Currently Amended) The method coating composition of claim 14, wherein the composition comprises ~~comprising~~ a solid at ambient temperatures in the range below about 120°F.
20. (Currently Amended) The method coating composition of claim 14, wherein when coated onto a composite material subject to moisture absorption under ambient conditions of temperature and humidity, the composition reduces moisture absorption by from about 60 to about 100%.